第15話

CHOUKO.
YOU GATHERED ALL THE HEIRS TO THE FOUR COLOR CLANS DURING YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO MAKE ONE OF THEM YOUR AIDE?
NN—... I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN WORRYING ABOUT THAT.
AN AIDE IS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD DECIDE ON ONE.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE, FATHER?
PAPA? THAT'S RIGHT...
THE FIRST TIME I SAW TOUGOU, I THOUGHT HE WAS INTERESTING.
INTER-ESTING...?
AHH.
THE FIRST TIME I MET TOUGOU,
I WAS A FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL JUST LIKE YOU...
EVEN THOUGH THE MANAKA HOUSEHOLD HAS QUITE THE HISTORY,
WE WERE NOWHERE AS BIG AS WE ARE RIGHT NOW.
WE WERE JUST ANOTHER CORPORATION

20 something years ago
MORNING HIGUCHI.
MORNING MANAKA.
CHATTER
SOME-HOW, YEAH.
DID YOU GET USED TO MIZONOO ACADEMY ALREADY?
TOUGOU UKOU!
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO-TION?
YAWN
Manaka Kaname (First year of high school)

BECOME BY AIDE!!
!
IGNORE
FM Scans
THAT GUY HASHIBE WAS REJECTED BY TOUGOU AGAIN.
EVEN IF HE WAS TO USE HIS MONEY'S POWERS, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO RECRUIT TOUGOU...
.....

TOUGOU!!
CUT IT OUT ALREADY AND REALIZE THAT TOUGOU WON'T EVEN CONSIDER YOU....
BLUSH
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I HUMILIATE MYSELF!
TEMBLE
YOU'RE JUST A NINJA!
TEMBLE
I'VE HAD IT...!
FWOOSH
GO GET HIM, YOU GUYS!

HISSING
FWUMP
WOOMPH
WOOMPH

EEK!
SHIVER
SHOCK
ぽかーん。
DUMBFOUNDED
FWISH
SHUDDER

WHO IS THAT?
AHH.
HE'S ONE OF THE HEIRS TO THE FOUR COLOR CLANS. HE'S THE BLUE CLAN'S "TOUGOU LIKOU".
IT WAS SUCH A BIG BRAWL, YET
HE SHOWED NO HATRED, DISCOMFORT OR EVEN EXCITEMENT.
TURN
HM?
HE WAS COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT...
OI HIGUCHI.
TOUGOU...?
YOU MUST NOT KNOW BECAUSE YOU WERE ADMITTED HERE FOR HIGH SCHOOL.

FM Scans
TOUGOU UKOU IS A FAMOUS GUY WHO'S APPARENTLY TO BECOME THE NEXT HEAD OF THE BLUE CLAN.
HE'S SCARY AND STRONG AND HAS NO ENEMIES IN THE ACADEMY.
JUST LIKE HIS NAME "UKOU", AFTER HE'S GONE THROUGH HE'LL LEAVE BEHIND A RAIN SHOWER OF BLOOD*....
*T/N UKOU'S NAME IS MADE OF THE KANJI'S FOR "RAIN AND "RED"
FAMOUS POLITICIANS AND WEALTHY PEOPLE ALL ARE SEEKING HIM OUT TO HIRE HIM AS AN AIDE.
...IS HE THAT AMAZING?
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO STRONG HE HAS SUCH APATHETIC EYES...
WELL PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND I WHO ARE PART OF SMALL-SCALE CORPORATIONS
CAN'T EVEN TALK TO SOMEONE LIKE HIM
THIS IS
...INTERESTING.

YEAR 1 CLASS 1
1年い組
I'm going to go talk to Tougou!
Huh? Manaka?
BURST LOUDLY
Please—!!

BAM
GLANCE
キョロ
TOUGOU UKOU, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
……

CHATTER
I'M YEAR 1 CLASS C'S MANAKA KANAME.
I'M THE HEIR TO A FAMILY BUSINESS
MANAKA ?
WHO'S THAT?
IT'S JUST A SMALL COMPANY THAT HAS A HISTORY.
TOUGOU.
DO YOU WANT TO BECOME MY AIDE?
HE'S NOT LOOK-ING AT ANY-THING.
HE REALLY HAS NO INTEREST IN HIS SUR-ROUND-INGS....
BUT
SILENCE

BAM
I WON'T ACCEPT THAT--!
Huuh?!
Wha!
っ!

TOUGOU!
LOOK AT ME!!
.....
EEK
DOES THAT GUY WANT TO DIE?!
THAT TOUGOU GOT A SURPRISE ATTACK...

ぱ
SHINING
You finally looked at me!
Oh!
あっ
FWISH
Y...ou...
HA!
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU MY AIDE!
I'LL MAKE YOU SAY YES NO MATTER WHAT!
Dumbfounded
WHAT'S... WITH THAT.
.....
See you around!
THAT'S ALL I CAME TO SAY FOR TODAY.

AND THEN WHEN I WAS IN THE 2ND GRADE,
I FELL INTO MY GRAND-FATHER'S CESSPOOL.
WOW~ THAT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE TOP THREE MOST DISAS-TROUS ACCI-DENTS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE~
HEY, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A CESS-POOL?
HEY, HEY TOUGOU!
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING~?
.....

HM?
THAT'S BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME.
YOU SURE DON'T GET BORED OF TALKING TO YOURSELF EVERY DAY...
SIGH
....I DON'T PLAN ON BECOMING YOUR AIDE.
You'll become my aide after all.
YOU'LL BECOME MY AIDE, TOUGOU.
....WHAT EVER.

The. reason. why. is ～
...I HATE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CONFI-DENCE WITH NO FOUNDA-TION.
...IF IT'S FOUNDA-TION YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, I HAVE IT.
POKE
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE EXTREMELY BORED EVERY-DAY, TOUGOU.
フフフ～

AH.
SMACK
FM Scans
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THIS.
YOU DON'T?
I THINK THE ANSWER'S PRETTY SIMPLE.
イラッ
IRRITATED
LIMP
LIMP
カタン
CLATTER

WAVE
ひら
ひら
WAVE
TRY TO THINK OF WHAT THE FOUNDATION FOR MY CONFIDENCE COULD BE.
It's your homework.
TURN
AH, TOUGOU!
……
THAT MANAKA GUY SURE IS STUBBORN, COMING HERE EVERYDAY…
BUT YOU KNOW…
TOUGOU TALKS TO HIM
…THE TRUTH IS
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN TOUGOU TALK OUTSIDE OF CLASS…
…ME TOO.

It's that Tougou you know?!
NO WAY....
NO NO.
CLENCH
SHAAA
See you
See you tomorrow!
NN... FINALLY OVER~

THE RAIN ISN'T STOPPING...
How troublesome...
OI MANAKA.
NN? WHAT'S WRONG HIGUCHI?
!!!
....OVER THERE
THEY'RE HISHIBE SENPAI'S FOLLOWERS...
I THOUGHT THEY'D COME AFTER I STARTED BEING INVOLVED WITH TOUGOU, BUT.....
They were quicker than expected
にゃ SMIRK
にゃ SMIRK
SHOULD I GO CALL THE TEACHER?
NO, IT'S FINE.
O...OI MANAKA.
..MORE IMPORTANTLY, HIGUCHI

CAN YOU DO ME ONE FAVOR?
WHAT IS IT? SENPAIS.
YOU SURE CALLED ME OUT TO A PRETTY CLICHE PLACE.
I DON'T REALLY LIKE BEING CALLED TO SUCH A DARK PLACE BY A BUNCH OF GUYS~

FM Scans

...MANAKA.
DON'T GET IN HASHIBE-SAN'S WAY!
YOU'RE AN EYESORE!
YOU'RE BEING TOO CHEEKY FOR A FIRST YEAR!
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN OBSTINATELY TALKING TO TOUGOU LATELY...
...YOU'RE RIGHT, THE MANAKA FAMILY IS A SMALL HOUSEHOLD COMPARED TO THE HASHIBE FAMILY...
BUT I DON'T THINK TOUGOU IS THE KIND OF PERSON TO FUSS OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
ぴくっ
TWITCH
WHAT'S THE SON OF A FAMILY OF YOUR LEVEL GOING TO DO WITH THE BLUE CLAN'S SUCCESSOR AS YOUR AIDE?
DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR OWN LIMITS!

SMACK
...OUCH.
GRIP
KNOW YOUR OWN SOCIAL POSI-TION!!
MIND THE WAY YOU SPEAK!
THE HASHIBE FAMILY COULD CRUSH SOMEONE LIKE THE MANAKA FAMILY WHENEVER!
HAHA. MY SOCIAL POSI-TION...HUH ..
BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD TOUGOU EVEN GREET
A PERSON FROM SUCH A SPLENDID SOCIAL POSI-TION AS YOURSELF, HASHIBE-SEN-PAI?

—WHAT!
IF YOU HAVE THE TIME TO PLAY AROUND WITH ME IN A PLACE LIKE THIS—
—THEN YOU SHOULD USE YOUR HEAD A LITTLE MORE IN ORDER TO GET TOUGOU TO LOOK IN YOUR DIRECTION
...YOU BASTARD.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU WANT A TASTE OF PAIN....

LEARN YOUR LESSON, AND MAKE SURE THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN..
HN!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DEFIED ME
...!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?
OW OW..
I WASN'T LAUGHING AT YOU.
...NO.
.....YO.
YOU'RE PRETTY LATE.

TOUGOU.
TOUGOU?!

...WHY DID YOU CALL ME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
SOME GUY CALLED OUT TO ME IN A REALLY SHAKY VOICE.
SHAKE
Um um
Tou-gou-kun. Manaka is calling for you.
SHAKE
.....HI-GUCHI.
...HEY.
THE HOME-WORK I GAVE YOU LAST TIME, "MY FOUNDA-TION"—
DID YOU GET IT?
....I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
FM Scans

BUT HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE. ...
..TOU GOU.
THIS PERSON HERE IS HASHIBE-SENPAI. HE'S THE DISTINGUISHED SON OF A VERY NOBLE FAMILY WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE HASHIBE GROUP.
!
IF YOU BECOME HIS AIDE, YOU'LL GET ALL THE HONOR AND REWARDS YOU WANT.
DO YOU WANT TO WORK FOR THIS PERSON?
No.
Ha!
SHOCK
.....
I THOUGHT SO!
GIGGLE
YOU'RE THAT KIND OF GUY.

YOU'RE TOO USED TO WINNING.
EVERYTHING COMES EASY TO YOU, SO THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO BORED.
A PATH THAT'S BEEN DECIDED FOR YOU, AND A PROMISED FUTURE...
YOU THINK THAT SUCH A BORING LIFE CAN JUST GO TO HELL.
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL COME TO ME.
!?
TOUGOU, I...
...YOU TALK AS IF YOU KNOW EVERY-THING..
PLAN TO AIM FOR THE TOP.

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY FOR A WEAK CORPORATION LIKE THE MANAKA'S TO RISE UP.
BUT YOU KNOW, THAT MEANS
CLENCH
THAT I CAN GET ALL FIRED UP, RIGHT?
IT'S UP TO EACH PERSON ON WHETHER THEY DECIDE TO ENJOY LIFE OR NOT.
BUT WITHOUT A DOUBT, IT'S YOUR LOSS IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO ENJOY THE ONE LIFE YOU'RE GIVEN.
—THAT'S WHY

I'LL PROPERLY LET YOU DISPLAY
THAT HIDDEN STRENGTH OF YOURS.
I'LL MAKE YOUR LIFE FUN.
TOUGOU.
COME WITH ME!

GRIN
THAT'S MY FOUNDATION.
.....
FM Scans
...ARE THERE
ANY LIES IN YOUR WORDS?
NOPE.
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DISAPPOINT ME?

IF THAT TIMES COMES,
I WON'T BLAME YOU IF YOU BETRAY ME.
BUT THAT'S ONLY IF I BECOME A MAN WHO'S WORTHY OF BETRAYAL.
.....FINE.
I'LL TAG ALONG ON THAT DREAM OF YOURS.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
OI! THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY, TOUGOU!!
DON'T FALL FOR SUCH WORDS...
THIS IS...!
TOUGOU.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST ORDER.

すぅ
DARK TAO SPHERE
!?
TAKE CARE OF ALL OF THESE GUYS.
I UNDERSTAND.
HYAA

WOW—... YOU REALLY ARE STRONG...
You did this just with bare hands?
CLAP
CLAP
IT WOULD BE DISCONCERTING IF I WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE CARE
THESE SMALL FRIES EASILY
Haha
THAT'S TRUE

チカ
FLICKER
チカ
FLICKER
THE RAIN STOPPED.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET...

THAT'S YOUR NAME, HUH.
...?
...? MINE?
IN THE MIDST OF THE PURE AIR AFTER THE RAIN FALLS
YOU MEAN THE THING ABOUT THE RAIN OF BLOOD?
AH—.. I'VE HEARD ABOUT THAT BEFORE,
BUT I DON'T THINK YOUR IMAGE IS SO CRUDE...
IT'S "LIKOU", RIGHT?
THE BLINDING-LY SHINING SUNSET.

I THINK THAT SUITS YOU BETTER.
...IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S SAID SOMETHING OF THE SORT.
IS THAT SO?
haha
USE THOSE BLINDINGLY SHINING RAYS TO LIGHT UP MY PATH.

.....LIGHT... HUH.
I'LL MAKE YOU SMILE MORE OFTEN FROM NOW ON!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
PAT
PAT
Ooh! You smiled for the first time. Tougou!
IRRITATED
.....

GRAB
JERK
Don't get carried away
うん
YUP
うん
YUP
SO THAT'S HOW
TOUGOU WAS PERSUADED BY PAPA'S CHARM.
How nostalgic
Ohh!
SO THAT'S HOW FATHER AND TOUGOU MET...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT.
—BUT
YOUR SITUATION AND MINE ARE COMPLETE OPPOSITES, HUH...

AN AIDE IS SOMEONE WHO FOLLOWS YOU ON YOUR GOAL.
IT'S SOMEONE WHO WILL WALK DOWN THAT PATH WITH YOU.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SELECTING AN AIDE IS DIFFERENT FOR EACH PERSON.
BUT DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.
SO ONCE YOU DECIDE YOUR GOAL,
AND HOW YOU WANT TO LIVE,
THAT'S WHEN YOU'LL SEE IT.

.....MY GOAL
AND HOW I WANT TO LIVE.....

THANKS.
I BROUGHT TEA.
OH, IT'S TOUGOU.
コン KNOCK
コン KNOCK
EXCUSE ME, KANAME-SAMA.
.....
HM? WHAT'S WRONG?
...IT SEEMS LIKE YOU WERE TELLING LADY CHOUKO STORIES ABOUT THE PAST.
TELLING HER UNNECESSARY THINGS ..
FM Scans

You spoil Chouko way too much~
ISN'T IT FINE?
I WAS JUST GIVING MY CUTE CHOUKO SOME ADVICE AS HER SENPAI IN LIFE.
PLUS, YOU'RE ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO HELP CHOUKO OUT
WHENEVER SHE ASKS YOU FOR IT
THOSE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
.....HEY UKOU.
IS EVERYDAY STILL BORING FOR YOU?
.....

...IF THAT WAS THE CASE,
I WOULDN'T STILL BE WORKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
HMPH
Pfft.
I knew it.
—DON'T ASK IF YOU ALREADY KNEW THE ANSWER.
HOW IRRITATING.
第15話 終

FAKE MANGA SCANLATIONS

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